

**MONTANA COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
**GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**2010 AMERICORPS GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**FOR JANUARY 8, 2010 COMMISSION MEETING**

- The Grant Review Committee reviewed each of the applications on December 18 2009. They submit to the Commission these recommendations with background information listed on pages 2-10:

**COMPETITIVE FUNDING – Total awarded \$2,495,390**

**Montana Conservation Corps:** Competitive funding at the amount requested of \$1,872,000.

**University of Montana / Montana Campus Corps:** 1) Competitive funding in the amount of \$623,390. 2) Based on the 70% performance measure success in 08/09 staff will work with the program.

**FORMULA FUNDING – Total available \$600,000, Total awarded \$495,776**

**Montana Legal Services, Justice for Montanans:** Formula funding at the amount requested of \$169,006.

**Jobs for Montana's Graduates Foundation, Young Adult Service Corps:** Formula funding in the amount of \$131,770 and 23.3 MSY.

Additional Consideration: Prepare applicant so they can compete nationally in 2011.

**National Center for Appropriate Technology, Montana Energy Corps:** Formula funding in the amount requested of \$195,000

**University of Montana, Montana Making \$ense:** Based on past performance and limited state funding recommend that MM\$ not be funded.

**PLANNING GRANTS – Total available \$118,484, Total awarded \$118,484**

**St. Vincent's Healthcare:** Formula funding at the amount requested of \$30,000

**Secretary of State's Office:** Formula funding at the amount requested of \$29,876

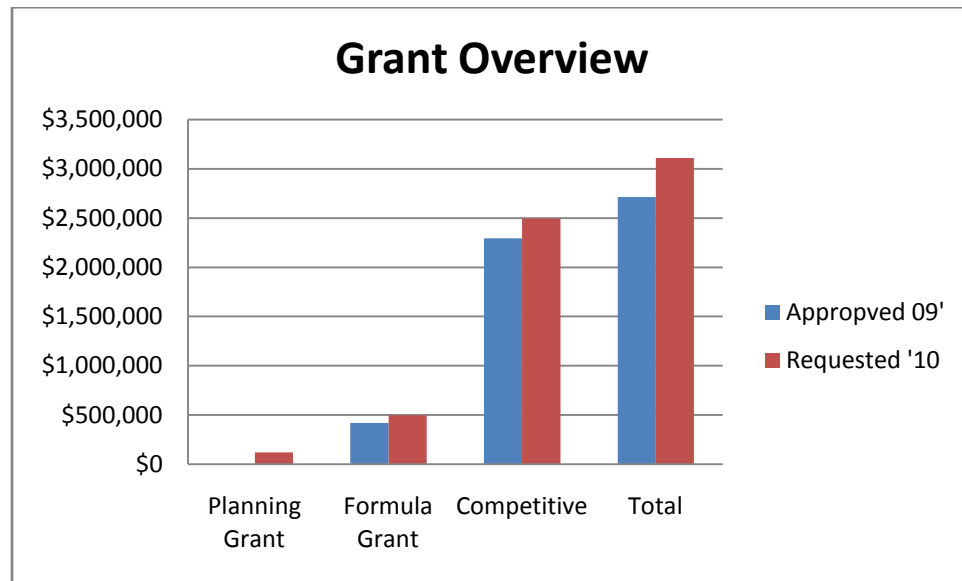
**Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks:** Formula funding at the amount requested of \$30,000

**Rural Dynamics, Inc:** Formula funding in the amount of \$28,608 which includes a \$1,363 decrease due to funding limitations and this was the lowest scored planning grant applicant. Programmatic recommendation is for Rural Dynamics to coordinating with other AmeriCorps approaches to financial literacy in Montana, prior to submitting an application in fall 2010.

**REMAINING FORMULA FUNDING of \$104,224**

The Governor's Office of Community Service will use the remaining Formula funding to offer additional planning grants and conduct an evaluation.

**MONTANA COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
**2010 AMERICORPS GRANT SUMMARIES**  
 December 15, 2009



**CONTINUATION GRANTS - COMPETITIVE**

❖ **Montana Conservation Corps – MCC**

	Current Grant ('09)	Request ('10)	Difference
<b>Federal Funds</b>	\$1,562,400	\$1,872,000	\$309,600
<b>Cash Match</b>	\$2,284,988	\$2,605,598	\$320,610
<b>In-Kind Match</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Match</b>	\$2,284,988	\$2,605,598	\$320,610
<b>Match %</b>	59%	58%	-1%
<b>Project Cost</b>	\$3,847,388	\$4,477,598	\$630,210
<b>MSY:</b>	124	144	20
<b>Cost per MSY:</b>	\$12,600	\$13,000	\$400

**2008 Grant**

**Enrollment Rate:** 100%

**Retention Rate:** 90%

**Performance Measures Success:** On-going (Final report not due until 1/20/10)

**Enrollments Completed within 30 Days:** 100%

**Exits Completed within 30 Days:** 100%

**Deadlines Meet:** 100%

**2009 Grant**

N/A – Starts 1/1/2010

**Recommendation:** Competitive funding at the amount requested of \$1,872,000.

❖ **Montana Campus Corps-UM**

**Reference (Based on initial request):**

	Current Grant ('09)	Request ('10)	Difference
Federal Funds	\$562,000	\$695,179	\$133,179
Cash Match	\$89,284	\$92,410	\$3,126
In-Kind Match	\$473,115	\$411,038	(\$62,077)
Total Match	\$562,399	\$503,448	(\$58,951)
Match %	50%	42%	-8%
Project Cost	\$1,124,399	\$1,198,627	\$74,228
MSY:	221.01	221.54	0.53
Cost per MSY:	\$2,492	\$3,138	\$646

**Revised Request:** Based on the committee's recommendation this represents a \$71,789 decrease in federal funding and an \$119,942 increase in match support.

	Current Grant ('09)	Revised Request ('10)	Difference
Federal Funds	\$562,000	\$623,390	\$61,390
Cash Match	\$89,284	\$179,643	\$90,359
In-Kind Match	\$473,115	\$443,747	(\$29,368)
Total Match	\$562,399	\$623,390	\$60,991
Match %	50%	50%	0%
Project Cost	\$1,124,399	\$1,246,780	\$122,381
MSY:	221.01	221.04	0.03
Cost per MSY:	\$2,492	\$2,820	\$328

**2008 Grant**

**Enrollment Rate:** 97%

**Retention Rate:** 88%

**Performance Measures Success:** 70%

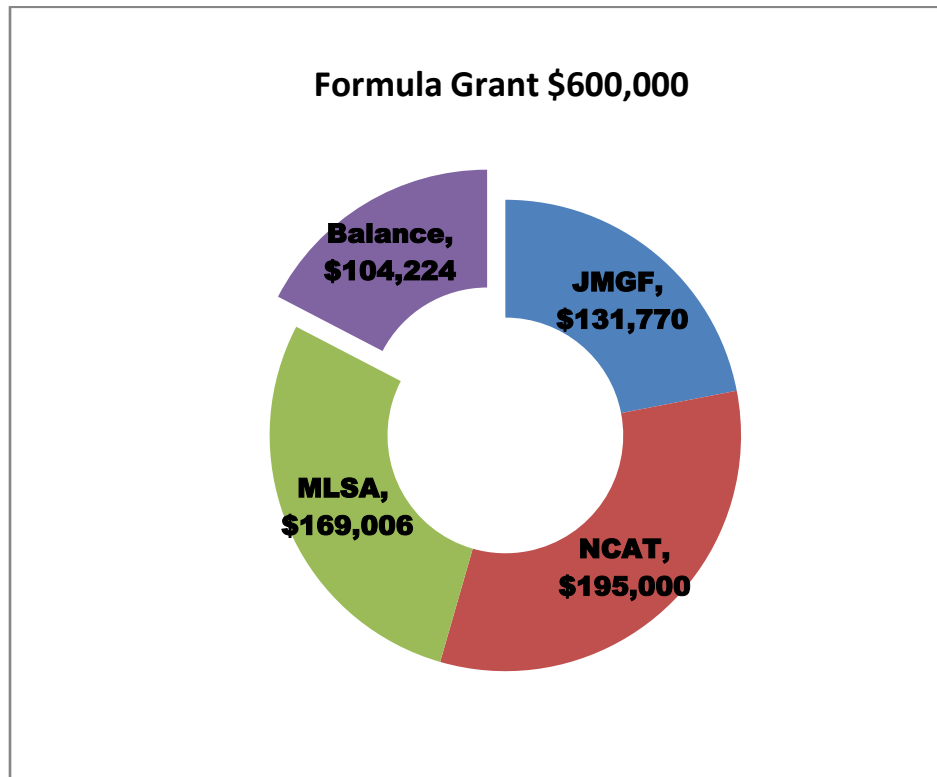
**Enrollments Completed within 30 Days:** 100%

**Exits Completed within 30 Days:** 89%

**Deadlines Meet:** 100%, although requested extension in July

**Recommendation:** 1) Competitive funding in the amount of \$623,390. 2) Based on the 70% performance measure success in 08/09 staff will work with the program.

### CONTINUATION GRANTS - FORMULA



#### ❖ Justice for Montana's Project – MLSA

	Current Grant ('09)	Request ('10)	Difference
Federal Funds	\$168,723	\$169,006	\$283
Cash Match	\$54,200	\$55,053	\$853
In-Kind Match	\$74,117	\$71,921	(\$2,196)
Total Match	\$128,318	\$126,974	(\$1,344)
Match %	43%	43%	0%
Project Cost	\$297,041	\$295,980	(\$1,061)
MSY:	13	13	0
Cost per MSY:	\$12,979	\$13,000	\$21

**2008 Grant**

N/A

**2009 Grant****Enrollment Rate:** 79%**Retention Rate:** 100%**Performance Measures Success:** N/A – First report due 4/20/10**Enrollments Completed within 30 Days:** 100%**Exits Completed within 30 Days:** N/A**Deadlines Meet:** 100%**Recommendation:** Formula funding at the amount requested of \$169,006.**❖ Jobs for Montana's Graduates Foundation****Reference (Based on initial request):**

	<b>Current Grant ('09)</b>	<b>Request ('10)</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Federal Funds</b>	\$119,771	\$119,771	\$0
<b>Cash Match</b>	\$21,959	\$28,359	\$6,400
<b>In-Kind Match</b>	\$34,400	\$28,000	(\$6,400)
<b>Total Match</b>	\$56,359	\$56,359	\$0
<b>Match %</b>	32%	32%	0%
<b>Project Cost</b>	\$176,130	\$176,130	\$0
<b>MSY:</b>	21.16	21.20	0
<b>Cost per MSY:</b>	\$5,660	\$5,660	\$0

**Revised Request (Based on the Committee's recommendation this represents an increase of \$11,999 and 2 MSY):**

	<b>Current Grant ('09)</b>	<b>Revised Request ('10)</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Federal Funds</b>	\$119,771	\$131,770	\$11,999
<b>Cash Match</b>	\$21,959	\$31,840	\$9,881
<b>In-Kind Match</b>	\$34,400	\$28,800	(\$5,600)
<b>Total Match</b>	\$56,359	\$60,640	\$4,281
<b>Match %</b>	32%	32%	0%
<b>Project Cost</b>	\$176,130	\$192,410	\$16,280
<b>MSY:</b>	21.16	23.30	2
<b>Cost per MSY:</b>	\$5,660	\$5,655	(\$5)

**2008 Grant****Enrollment Rate:** 93%

**Retention Rate:** 86%  
**Performance Measures Success:** 100%  
**Enrollments Completed within 30 Days:** 91%  
**Exits Completed within 30 Days:** 93%  
**Deadlines Meet:** 100%

**Recommendation:** Formula funding in the amount of \$131,770 and 23.3 MSY.  
 For Consideration: Prepare applicant so that they can compete nationally in 2011.

❖ **Montana Energy Corps – NCAT**

	Current Grant ('09)	Request ('10)	Difference
Federal Funds	\$131,000	\$195,000	\$64,000
Cash Match	\$108,149	\$113,014	\$4,865
In-Kind Match	\$22,443	\$20,778	(\$1,665)
Total Match	\$130,592	\$140,748	\$10,156
Match %	50%	42%	-8%
Project Cost	\$261,592	\$335,748	\$74,156
MSY:	10	15	5
Cost per MSY:	\$13,100	\$13,000	(\$100)

**2008 Grant**

N/A

**2009 Grant**

**Enrollment Rate:** 100%  
**Retention Rate:** 100%  
**Performance Measures Success:** N/A – First report due 4/20/10  
**Enrollments Completed within 30 Days:** 100%  
**Exits Completed within 30 Days:** N/A  
**Deadlines Meet:** 100%

**Recommendation:** Formula funding at the amount requested of \$195,000.

**NEW AND RECOMPETING GRANTS**

❖ **Montana Making \$ense – UM**

**Score: 82.5%**

	Grant ('07)	Grant ('08)	Request ('09)	Request ('10)
<b>Federal Funds</b>	\$319,830	\$258,573	\$333,888	\$260,988
<b>Cash Match</b>	\$66,254	\$58,330	\$102,347	\$78,475
<b>In-Kind Match</b>	\$72,860	\$70,820	\$127,126	\$81,620
<b>Total Match</b>	\$139,114	\$128,965	\$229,473	\$160,095
<b>Match %</b>	30%	33%	41%	38%
<b>Project Cost</b>	\$458,944	\$387,538	\$563,361	\$421,083
<b>MSY:</b>	25.38	17.50	26.50	20.08
<b>Cost per MSY:</b>	\$12,600	\$14,776	\$12,600	\$12,997

**Summary:** MM\$ is designed to enhance the human resource capacity of organizations to provide financial education to their communities.

**Staff Assessment:** Although Montana Making \$ense (MM\$) applied as a new grant application, this applicant has operated an AmeriCorps application in prior years. Therefore, the staff reviewed progress reports and staff monitoring tools to support the Commission's award criteria which included "demonstrated ability to successfully administer an AmeriCorps or other federal grant or complex finances." The University of Montana received funding formula funding in 07/08 and 08/09 for Montana Making \$ense program.

The Corporation for National Service performance targets for most indicators is 100%.

**2007 Grant (Calendar year 2007-2008)**

**Enrollment Rate:** 55%

**Retention Rate:** 64%

**Performance Measures Success:** 87.5%

**Enrollments Completed within 30 Days:** 82%

**Exits Completed within 30 Days:** 100%

**Met Deadlines:** 100%

**2008 Grant (Calendar year 2008-2009)**

**Enrollment Rate:** 87%

**Retention Rate:** 91%

**Performance Measures Success:** 100%

**Enrollments Completed within 30 Days:** 97%

**Exits Completed within 30 Days:** 79%

**Met Deadlines:** 100% (Granted a 60 day no cost extension for AmeriCorps members to complete term and MM\$ to receive additional program income to operate through October 31, 2009.)

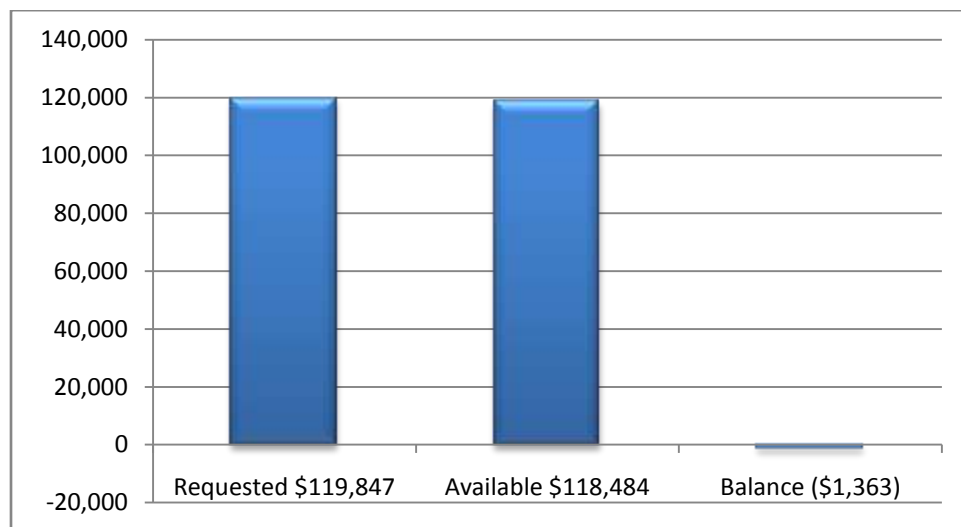
MM\$ achieved better performance results in 2008 with items such as enrollment and retention, however site visit findings during 2008-2009 revealed repeat findings on the same issues. Based on these findings, the Commission adopted the staff recommendation in 2009 to right-size the program grant request from \$330k to \$170k. MM\$ rescinded their grant proposal. Since then, Montana's formula funding has become even more

competitive with three programs now operating programs with state AmeriCorps funding. The past performance indicators for Montana Making \$ense do not support a recommendation for the Commission to send this application onto National to compete for Competitive funding.

**Recommendation:** Based on past performance and limited state funding recommend that MM\$ not be funded.

## **PLANNING GRANTS**

Table: Funding Requested Versus Funding Available



### **❖ St. Vincent's Healthcare**

**Score: 90%**

**Federal Request:** \$30,000

**Total Match:** 23,671

**Match %:** 44%

**Summary:** Focus on healthy futures through increased awareness, understanding and participation through health education, health screening, health literacy and referral.

Proposed Start Date: February 2010

**Staff Assessment:** Large organization with experience managing several federal grants, including a long history (38 years) as a Foster Grandparent program and receiving funding from CNCS.



**Recommendation:**

Option 1: Formula funding at the amount request of \$30,000

Option 2: Offer St. Vincent's the option to submit this proposal to compete nationally, with the understanding that the earliest start date is May 1, 2010. If unsuccessful, then fund using Formula funds at the amount requested of \$30,000

**❖ Secretary of State's Office****Score: 85%****Federal Request:** \$29,876**Total Match:** \$11,182**Match %:** 27%

**Summary:** Address needs related to the acquisition of civic knowledge and encourage and support civic engagement such as voting and participating in elections within each community and at the statewide and federal levels. Proposed Start Date: February 2010

**Staff Assessment:** Currently, receiving federal grants from DHHS and EAC.

**Recommendation:** Formula funding at the amount requested of \$29,876**❖ Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks****Score: 82.5%****Federal Request:** \$30,000**Total Match:** \$16,042**Match %:** 35%

**Summary:** Strengthen the ability of Montana State Parks to preserve and manage natural and cultural resources by engaging communities, building volunteer capacity and developing leaders with a commitment to stewardship. Proposed Start Date: February 2010

**Staff Assessment:** FWP has experience managing various federal grants, including past experience with AmeriCorps, including Montana Conservation Corps.

**Recommendation:** Formula funding at the amount requested of \$30,000**❖ Rural Dynamics, Inc****Score: 77.5%****Federal Request:** \$29,971**Total Match:** \$16,042**Match %:** 35%

**Summary:** Develop a program that will use behavioral economics to incorporate intensive financial coaching to move low income families that have completed financial education to incorporate this knowledge into attitudinal and behavioral changes.

Proposed Start Date: February 2010

**Staff Assessment:** Limited experience managing federal funding; currently receiving an \$80,000 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Grant. Experience with AmeriCorps includes being an operating site for Senior Corps members with Montana Legal Service's and previously AmeriCorps members with Montana Making Sense.

**Recommendation:** Formula funding in the amount of \$28,608 which includes a \$1,363 decrease due to funding limitations and this was the lowest scored planning grant applicant. Programmatic recommendation is for Rural Dynamics to coordinating with other AmeriCorps approaches to financial literacy in Montana, prior to submitting an application in fall 2010.

#### **Formula Funding Summary Recommendations:**

Three (3) formula funded programs have demonstrated ability to manage an AmeriCorps program, as well as seek funds to continue in 2010-2011. Staff recommends continued funding for these programs which are not yet ready to be submitted to the Corporation for National Service for competitive funding. The result is a balance of \$116,000 formula funds available for other purposes. Given the interest in planning grants and the interest by the Corporation to grow AmeriCorps programs across the nation, it is the staff recommendation that a significant portion of these funds be used to offer another round of planning grants. In addition, staff recommends that a portion of these funds be used to conduct a statewide evaluation of formula programs. It is in the best interest of the Commission going forward to understand the benefits of existing AmeriCorps programs in Montana and to identify opportunities for more in support of the Serve America Act.